Govt. II-27—200,000—31-5-48.

Development (1948) Department

MS SERIES.

Kelb.
G.O. No. 4753

Dated 20. 9. 48

[Despatch Abstract.]

AGRICULTURE : GROW MORE FOOD : COMPOST FROM TOWN REFUSE AND NIGHT SOIL : ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 1948.

REPORT ON THE MANUFACTURE OF COMPOST FROM TOWN REFUSE IN THE PROVINCE OF MADRAS DURING THE YEAR ENDING THE 31st AMARCH 1948.

The Director of Public Health continued to be the Provincial Authority for the promotion of the manufacture of compost from town wastes through the agency of the health staff. 57 municipalities and 32 panchayats were engaged in the work of compost manufacture by the end of the year under review.

2. On the whole 53.53 lakhs c.ft. of compost which is equivalent to more than one lakh tons of manure was manufactured in 1947-48 as against 40.17 lakhs c.ft. in 1946-47. 38.32 lakhs c.ft. of compost was sold to the ryots in 1947-48 as against 29.40 lakhs c.ft. in 1946-47.

3. During the year, three more Sanitary Inspectors from the Municipalities of Kancheepuram, Bodinayakanur and Tiruvannamalai were trained in the theory and practice of compost manufacture.

4. The total amount of subisdy sanctioned for payment during the financial year 1947-48 was Rs. 29,942/6/0.

5. The cinema film "Need of the Moment" on the manufacture and use of compost was exhibited in many districts. Two copies of this film, one in Tamil and the other in English are available in the Office of the Director of Public Health for distribution. The staff of the Agricultural Department and the staff of the Public Health Department have been carrying on propagadna to induce the ryots to utilize the compost made from town refuse and night soil, during the year and the reports from the districts indicate that the Departmental propaganda had its desired effect.

6. In order to popularise the town compost, the Government have sanctioned a scheme for running demonstration plots in 82 specified centres throughout the Province at a cost of Rs. 100 per centre to demonstrate the comprative value of town compost and farm yard manure. As the scheme was sanctioned towards the end of 1947, much work could not be done during 1947-48. But reports of resulsts from a few districts where the plots have been laid ~~down~~ out during 1947-48 show significant results in the case of crops manured with town compost.

7. The following are the chief defects, reported from districts which limit the large scale use of town compost -

(i) Lack of adequate transport facilities is reported to be the chief disadvantage in many districts. The centre of manufacture of the compost is away from the consuming villages in many instances.

(ii) Poor quality of compost manufactured by some municipalities is a factor.

(iii) The presence of foreign matter in the compost has been complained from almost all districts. The ryots seem to take very serious view of the presence of broken glass, tin, stones, etc., in the compost as they constitute a danger to the workders in the field.

(iv) The inherent apathy of the rual population towards town compost is almost overcome by the departmental propaganda and demonstration and the ryots are expected to buy increasing quantities of town compost, if well decomposed compost of good quality is offered to them.

8. Many municipalities and panchayat boards do not manufacture compost at present mainldy due to lack of finance and want of proper staff to supervise the manufacture of compost.

W.R.S. SATTIANATHAN
Secretary to Govarnment.

copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office, Egmore

Sk. 29/7

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department.

Letter (Ms) No. 4753.Dev.

Fort St. George, Madras.9,
Dated, the 20th September 1948

From

W.R.S. Sattianathan, Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Agriculture, NEW DELHI.

Sir,

Sub: AGRICULTURE - Grow More Food - Compost from town refuse and night soil - Annual Report for the year ended the 31st March 1948.

In continuation of this Government's letter No.13250-A.III/48.5 dated the 5th June 1948, I am directed to forward herewith a report on the working of the Compost Scheme in the Province during the year ended the 31st March 1948.

Yours faithfully,

W.R.S. SATTIANATHAN
Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Director of Public Health.
Copy to the Director of Agriculture.
Copy to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
Copy to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

for Superintendent,
Madras Record Office